

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Joseph White VAS4960
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

This is to certify that (I Joshua Singleton [S7510] a Lieut. in the Virginia State Navy during the Revolutionary War) was well acquainted with Joseph White who was a Master Pilot of a Brig call'd the Liberty commanded by Cap. Thomas Lilly [VAS923] in the year 1777 or thereabout and at the time he was a Pilot of the said Vessel, they captured a Ship bound from Liverpool to Quebec laden with Naval Stores and brought her into Little York in the State of Virginia, after that period (viz) about the year Seventeen Hundred & Eighty he went out from Little York in a Letter of Marque bound to St. Eustatia [Sint Eustatius], which port Rodney had a short time previous taken possession of Admiral George Rodney, Feb 1781] [undeciphered] kept the Dutch Flag Flying to decoy the americans, and [undeciphered] he was decoyed & [undeciphered] he died there a prisoner. The above Statement is in part to my own knowledge and in part to tradition; & as such I wish [undeciphered] to be received.

I do also certify that Richard White & Jane are the only surviving Children of the above named Joseph White.

[Gloucester County, 7 Sep 1833]

Petition for Bounty land.

Hrs of Joseph White – Pilot S. Navy.

I have not seen the name of Joseph White a Pilot, in the Navy Journals, or Navy Papers.

An affidavit of Joshua Singleton late a Lieut of the Virginia Navy, states that Joseph White was in the Brig Liberty with Capt Lilly, as Master Pilot, in the year 1777, or thereabout – that about the year 1780, he went out in a Letter of Marque to St. Eustatia, where he was taken prisoner, & died.

All the Books & papers of the Brig Liberty have been lost, or destroyd, except a few unimportant, loose papers.

To his Excellency Gov'r Tazewell

Resply submitted/ John H Smith Comm'r &c
May 13th 1834

1834 [?] Rejected

The affidavit of John Belvin of Glouster [sic: Gloucester] County State of Virginia Givin this the first day of Febuary 1838

The affirmant States that he was well acquainted with Joseph White who was a pilot in the Revolution war and was at the same time owner of a Pilot Boat which was pressed from him and used for the purpose of transporting provisions from the eastern to the Western shore of Virginia for the consumption of the american army and the affirmant further states that about the year 1779 the said Joseph White was taken a prisoner by the british forces, and was as he understood kept on board the british Vessels to act as pilot for them in the chesapeake bay contrary to his wishes sometime before he was transfered over the Ocean to the British [undeciphered word] and always understood that he died a prisoner on or about the year 1781 or 2 but the exact time he can not say

Teste/ Joel Hayes

John hisXmark Belvin Sen

House of Delegates/ April 6th 1838

To his Excellency Governour [David] Campbell

Dear Sir I have to beg your indulgence on behalf of a very worthy gentleman from my town Mr White, to consider without regard to position on the docket a claim presented by him two or years ago for the bounty land due his father as an officer in the State Navy – the evidence at that time was deemed

insufficient – he has since procured other testimony, which I have examined and in my opinion it is satisfactory – which I hope will also prove to be your opinion. Your Excellency will please bear in mind that Mr White has obtained the testimony himself and it is therefore entitled to more weight than it would otherwise be entitled to if it had been obtained by an agent, in which case – as I fear has been too often done by agents – the testimony might be put into the mouth of the witness. I regret that I leave for home this morning which prevents me from accompanying Mr. White to the Council Chamber to give such instruction as his inexperience may need. I am sure however your Excellency will look more to the matter than the manner of this application and that you will Judge it upon its merits

I have the honour to be Yr Excellency's Ob Sert with great respect J Murdaugh
P.S. Mr White wishes to return home on Sunday & you will greatly oblige him by a decision on his application today – the claim was filed in 1835 or 1836

Bounty land is allowed in this case for a service of three years as a Pilot in the State Navy
D. Campbell

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

The deposition of Thomas Haby of Glouster County State of Virginia the deponent deposeth and sayeth that he now is in his ninety second year of age and that he served during the Revolutionary War as a private in the regular survice and that he was well acquainted with on Joseph White during the said War that he the said white owned a Pilote Boat and that the said Boat was pressed in the United State Survice and used as a pilote boat and also used in the transpotation of provision from the Eastern to the Western shore and to the shiping and the said Joseph White was Master Pilot in the U. S. Survice and was promoted to Lieutenant in which capasity he acted untill he was taken prisener by the enemy and sent to Halifax prison and there he died without recieving any pay for his services and furthermore the deponent sayeth not
Thomas hisXmark Hagy
Mah [March?] 10th 1851.

1851 Dec'r 31. Rejected